Setting up of new Export Promotion Council

473. SHRI R. P. GOENKA:
SHRI K. RAMAMOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to set up a new Export Promotion Council (EPC) exclusively for the Export-Oriented Units (EOUs) and the units located at SEZs and EPSs;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the specific role contemplated for the new Council and the advantages sought to be achieved, as distinct from the existing Confederation of Export Units representing exporters from the EOUs segment; and

(c) the present number of export-oriented units functioning in the country and the total value and volume of exports, as percentage of the total exports of the country generated by them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) A separate Export Promotion Council for Export Oriented Units (EOUs) and Unit of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) has been set up to enhance exports from this sector. The EPC will function as an approved trade body like other Export Promotion Councils and will facilitate functioning of units of this sector.

(c) As on 31/3/2002, a total No. 1621 EOUs and 639 units in SEZ were functioning in the country. The total value of export during year 2001-02 for EOUs was about Rs. 18745 Crores and that for SEZs Rs. 9190 Crores, which constituted 9% and 4.24% of the country's total export respectively.

Export of Iron-ore

†474. SHRI P. K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the iron-ore is being exported;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the name of the countries to which export has been made during the last three years along with the quantum thereof;

(c) the number of companies including MMTC indulged in exports and exports made by them in terms of quantum and amount; and

(d) the policy formulated by Government in this regard for the forthcoming financial year along with the details of its guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, iron-ore is being exported from the country. The names of countries along with quantity of exports made during the last three years is given below:

(Quantity: Million Tonnes)

Country	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
China	10.0	14.10	19.22
Japan	15.07	16.77	15.62
South Korea	2.59	2.31	3.00
Taiwan	0.50	0.90	0.43
Europe	2.55	1.48	1.81
Others (Including Pakistan & Middle East Countries	2.20	1.93	1.56
Total	32.91	37.49	41.64

(*Source*: MMTC)

(c) Sixteen (16) companies, including MMTC, exported iron-ore as follows:

(Quantity: Million Tonnes; Value: Rs. Crore)

1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
32.91	2246.62	37.49	2873.36	41.64	3344.73

(*Source*: MMTC)

(d) According to the Government policy on iron-ore exports, MMTC continues to be the canalising agency for export of iron-ore with iron content 64% and above. Government has also been allowing private exporters who own iron-ore mines to export high-grade iron-ore in order to bring in healthy competition as a part of progressive and liberalized policy.

Applications pending for patent registration

475. DR. VIJAY MALLYA:
SHRI K. B. KRISHNA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications received by Patent Office Chennai for registration of patents of new inventions emanated from Karnataka for the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to open a Patent Office in Bangalore to help the enterpreneurs, industrialists, scientists and technologists to register patents without much delay; and

(c) if so, by when such Patent Office is likely to be set up in Bangalore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) The number of applications received by the Patent Office, Chennai for registration of patents emanating from Karnataka in the last three years is as under:

Year	Number of applications received
2001-2002	147
2000-2001	112
1999-2000	122

(b) and (c) There is no proposal to set up a Patent Office in Bangalore. However, in order to ensure speedy grant of patents, Government has undertaken the comprehensive modernisation of all its Patent Offices, including the Patent Office at Chennai. Additional staff having adequate technical qualifications has already been sanctioned to cater to the increasing workload in the Patent Offices. Further, comprehensive